



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME LI

ISSUE 15

November 02, 2015

Applications for Donaldson and Alumni Awards Due Tuesday

As we approach another graduation, the Alumni Association will again be giving out two awards during the ceremony on December 10. Students must have an institutional grade point average of 3.0 or higher to apply and must participate in the graduation ceremony. The process continually gets better, and it is totally online this year: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/5exL7cvbYr7j42>. Also, three faculty/staff members must submit letters of recommendation on the student's behalf emailed to alumni@abac.edu from their ABAC email address.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday at 5 p.m.. Interviews for the finalists chosen will be held on Friday, November 13, for the Alumni Association Award and Saturday, November 14, for the Donaldson Award. Contact Lynda Fisher at lfisher@abac.edu for more information about the application process.

Save the Date for Stallion Day November 14

The November Stallion Day is one of ABAC's major recruiting events for the fall. If you are an advisor for one of the many ABAC clubs/organizations, please encourage your students to participate. Contact Brooke Jernigan at bjernigan@abac.edu for the club registration form.

ABAC Writers' Harvest Features Nonfiction Author Nov. 12

The annual Writers' Harvest sponsored by "Pegasus," the ABAC literary magazine, will take place on Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village Conference Center at ABAC. There is no charge to attend.

The featured reader for the Writers' Harvest is author Ira Sukrungruang. He is a Thai American writer born in 1976 in Oak Lawn, Ill., a suburb just south of Chicago. In 1994 he graduated from Oak Lawn Community High School.

Accepted to Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Sukrungruang spent the next five years jumping from major to major before choosing the writer's path. During this time, he was an undergraduate intern at Crab Orchard Review, an experience that taught him the ins and outs of publishing.



In 1999, Sukrungruang wrote his way into graduate school at The Ohio State University where he received an MFA in creative nonfiction. Along the way, he co-edited, with his good friend Donna Jarrell, "What Are You Looking At? The First Fat Fiction Anthology" and "Scoot Over, Skinny:

The Fat Nonfiction Anthology." He is the author of the memoir, "Talk Thai: The Adventures of Buddhist Boy" and the poetry collection "In Thailand It Is Night." His most recent publication is the essay collection "Southside Buddhist." In addition, he edits "The Clever Title," a blog about the creative writing world, and "Sweet: A Literary Confection," an award-winning online literary magazine.

Sukrungruang taught creative nonfiction at The State University of New York Oswego for six years and now teaches in the Master of Fine Arts program at the University of

South Florida.

The price of admission to the Writers' Harvest is one nonperishable food item or canned good. All donations go to support Brother Charlie's Rescue Mission. Staff members of "Pegasus" will collect canned goods and non-perishable items through the date of the Writers' Harvest.

Donations can also be dropped off at the offices of "Pegasus" co-advisors, Dr. Jeff Newberry and Brandi Arrington. Newberry's office is located in King Hall, Room 2C and Arrington's office is located in Conger Hall, Room 308. Donations can also be dropped off at the "Pegasus" office located on the bottom floor of the Carlton Center.

For more information on the Writers' Harvest, interested persons can contact Newberry via e-mail at jnewberry@abac.edu or go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/480150552169561/>.

ABAC Presents U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus Saturday

The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus will perform a free concert on Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Tift County High School Performing Arts Center as an extra added attraction bonus night in the 2015-2016 performing arts series at ABAC.

Although this particular ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series concert is available at no charge, a ticket is still required for admittance to the performance. ABAC Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones said the free tickets can be reserved online at www.purplepass.com/abac or by phone at (229) 391-4895.

As a thank you to the troops and in recognition of all the charitable contributions of the United States military, patrons of this performance are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy donation for Toys for Tots to the concert.

The Student Veterans group, the ABAC Cattlemen's Club, and Brother 2 Brother will be at the venue to help members of the military collect toy donations. Toys for Tots was founded by Major Bill Hendricks of

the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in 1947.

The United States Army Field Band of Washington, D.C. is the premiere touring musical representative for the United States Army. The band has been performing for audiences for more than 60 years. The group travels thousands of miles each year presenting a variety of music throughout the nation and overseas.

The Soldiers' Chorus, founded in 1957, is the vocal complement of the United States Army Field Band. The 29-member mixed choral ensemble performs as a separate component and in joint concerts with the Concert Band as the "Musical Ambassadors of the Army." The chorus has entertained audiences in all 50 states as well as in Canada, Mexico, India, Asia, and throughout Europe.

Other performances in the ABAC performing arts series include the Peach State Opera Company's production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Don Giovanni" on Feb. 11, 2016 at 7 p.m. in Howard

Auditorium, the Dallas Brass on March 8, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the TCHS Performing Arts Center, and saxophonist Greg Tardy with the ABAC Jazz Ensemble on April 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium.

While available tickets will be sold at the door for each of the three remaining events, Jones encourages advance purchase of tickets to ensure seating for patrons. Tickets for the entire series are \$50 for adults and \$20 for students under 18 years of age. Individual tickets for each event are \$15 for adults and \$10 each for students under 18 years of age. Tickets for all performances can be purchased online at www.purplepass.com/abac or by phone at (229) 391-4895.

ABAC Presents! is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency - the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mark Your Calendar for Open Enrollment Meetings

Open Enrollment is here. This year, you can enroll in your 2016 benefits between Monday, November 2, and Friday, November 13. Communication meetings will be on the following days and times in the Herring Hall 1st Floor Conference Room:

Wednesday: 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

November 10: 8:30 a.m., 12 p.m., and 5 p.m.

November 12: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

There will also be a communication meeting for retirees on Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. Breakfast will be provided. Contact Kaycee Jones at kjones@abac.edu for more information.

Travel to Callaway Gardens with ABAC December 12

The Office of College Advancement at ABAC will offer a special treat this holiday season with a trip to Callaway Gardens' Fantasy in Lights on Dec. 12. This trip is open to anyone with the desire to travel.

The price for this trip is \$100 per person. The price includes transportation, lunch, and admission to Callaway Gardens and Fantasy in Lights. Current ABAC faculty, staff, students, and Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount. A

\$50 deposit must be made by Nov. 15 with the final payment due by Dec. 1. Space is limited for this excursion.

The one-day trip will begin with lunch at the legendary Moore's Whistling Pig restaurant in Pine Mountain. Travelers will then arrive at the park and take part in a guided tour from the comfort of the tour bus



before attending the Birds of Prey show. Visitors will have some free time to explore the Butterfly House and the rest of the Gardens before catching a 6 p.m. trolley ride through the Fantasy in Lights.

For more information, visit www.abac.edu/travel, contact ABAC travel coordinator Lynda Fisher at lfisher@abac.edu, or call (229) 391-4900.

ABAC Students Partner with Salvation Army to Raise Funds

Students from the community development strategies class in the Stafford School of Business at ABAC have joined forces with the Tifton Salvation Army to raise funds to make a regional disaster center in Tifton a reality.

With a goal of raising at least \$5,000 of the \$20,000 needed, teams from the class are involved in several forms of fundraising that will culminate in the Red Kettle Kick-Off on November 7 at the Salvation Army offices on Highway 82 East in Tifton. This event will take place from 11a.m.–4 p.m. and will feature a sale at the retail store, hamburgers and hotdogs, a cakewalk, silent auction, face painting, and many other family fun activities.

ABAC Assistant Professor of Business Earl Denham said, “As we all know, the Salvation Army is one of the first disaster relief responders in any disaster worldwide, and we have been fortunate so far not to have a major disaster in our region of the country. I hope the community

will pull together to support these students and have a disaster relief center the Salvation Army can work from before we need it. With the Governor designating this week Salvation Army Week, that makes this project even more worthwhile.”

The community development strategies class is designed and taught as an economics course by Denham, who took the original idea and transformed it into a practical, life-lessons experience. The curriculum includes lessons on housing, public health, education, recreation, state and local government partnerships, cultural events, federal programs, and faith-based organizations.

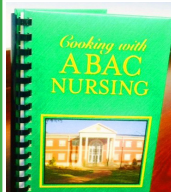
“We have speakers who are involved in all aspects of community development,” said Denham.

One of the class’s featured speakers is Susie Chitwood, the director of the Tifton Salvation Army. Denham and Chitwood had discussed a class project in the past,

but had not had the opportunity to make it a reality.

“I have had class projects in Ashburn, Ocilla, Hawkinsville, Boston, Stewart County, Randolph County and several others, but I have not had the opportunity to have one in Tifton,” Denham said. “Since I am retiring at the end of this semester, I wanted to do something in my hometown. Susie provided us that opportunity. With the encouragement of my wife, Teddie, who sits on the advisory board, we put this worthwhile project together.

“Not only will these business students come away from this class knowing how to develop strategic plans with strategies and goals to accomplish a worthwhile objective, speak to community leaders, and enrich a community, they will also be able to take pride in knowing they helped a community come together to help each other do something to make all lives in their community much better for all.”



School of Nursing and Health Sciences Sell Cookbook

The faculty, staff, students and alumni of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences has published a cookbook. Retired faculty member Patricia Barber has shared several of her “secret” recipes for the book. The price for the cookbook is \$15. Proceeds benefit the Lisa Purvis Allison Scholarship Endowment. To purchase your copy of this cookbook, contact Reba Selph at rselph@abac.edu or 229.391.5020.

ABAC Employees Can Purchase Tickets Now for North Pole Express

Children of all ages can ride the North Pole Express to see Santa Claus from 5-8 p.m. on Dec. 16-18 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. Tickets for faculty and staff can be purchased Nov. 2-Nov. 7 at the GMA Country Store.

The Museum’s 1917 Vulcan steam locomotive will depart for the North Pole every 20 minutes. Guests will be able to listen to Mrs. Claus read the holiday classic, “The Polar Express,” in the Clyatt Cabin before boarding the North Pole Express to visit with Santa Claus and enjoy

the movie version of “The Polar Express” in a winter wonderland.

Tickets for the North Pole Express are available for \$7 per person and must be purchased in advance at the Country Store. Tickets will not be sold at the event. The North Pole Express will run in all kinds of weather.

Bring along your camera for some great photo opportunities. It is recommended that your group come a few minutes before your scheduled session for the best experience possible.



For more information, interested persons can contact the Museum at (229) 391-5205 or visit the website at www.abac.edu/museum.

ABAC Birthdays

2 Jodie Snow 2 Gina Wilson 7 Deborah Drummonds
7 Kathy Moreno 8 Tim Marshall